

**Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and Emergency Preparedness**
State of Louisiana

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State Continues Response to Historic Flood Event

BATON ROUGE (March 13, 2016) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) continues to coordinate the state's response to the current historic flood event. The initial reports from parishes indicate more than 4,958 homes received flood damage. This total does not include entire regions of the state still responding to flood-related emergencies. Thousands of people have been forced from their homes. This number also continues to climb. Governor John Bel Edwards, key cabinet members and a representative from FEMA have traveled to many of the hardest hit areas for site visits. More travel is planned today in the western half of the state. State agencies manning the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) continue round the clock work to meet requests for resources from parishes impacted by the floods.

"Our first goal is to help our local partners through the response phase of this event," said GOHSEP Director James Waskom. "We will begin to transition into the recovery phase as conditions improve. We have been working with FEMA for the past several days in an effort to streamline the disaster assessment process that will ultimately determine what level of Federal support will be available for individuals, parishes and state agencies dealing with flood. The assessment work may begin in phases because the storms impact took several days to develop in some areas, but rest assured, that work will continue in all areas once it is safe for the joint FEMA/GOHSEP assessment teams to access other regions."

We urge everyone to continue to use caution in areas where floodwaters remain. This crisis is not over. The National Weather Service indicates thunderstorms and a potential of severe weather are forecast this evening in Northwest Louisiana, which could cause even more problems. Other problems with rivers and bayous are causing new problems to develop. Please do not drive on flooded roadways. Monitor the Louisiana Department

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of Transportation and Development's www.511la.org website for updated road closure information. Look for advisories from your local authorities and emergency managers.

You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new Alert FM App. It is free for basic service. You can also download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getagameplan.org.

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